GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3167
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2003
NEWS ON PRIVATE FM CHANNELS
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has imposed a ban on the broadcasting of news on the private FM channels;

(b) if so, whether the private FM Channels are still broadcasting news in their own inimitable style despite the ban; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard and their reaction thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) As per the terms and conditions of Licence Agreement clause-7 Main Text `the licence is for free to air broadcast of audio on main carrier and data on sub-carrier both excluding news and current affairs and any other services which are under jurisdiction of Department of Telecommunication.` and Clause 1 (a) Section − 6 of Tender Document `The licence shall befor free to air broadcasts of audio on main carrier and data on sub-carriers, both excluding News and Current Affairs.`. Therefore the private broadcasters are not permitted to broadcast news and Current Affairs.

(b) A complaint from Prasar Bharati dated 11.6.2002 was received through CEO, PrasarBharati regarding broadcasting of News & current affairs on Pvt. FM channel in Mumbai.

(c) The matter was taken up with the company, who had responded that it had happened inadverantly and that they have taken measures to ensure that this is not repeated.

Central Monitoring Services had also been asked to monitor the radio stations in Delhiviz Radio Mirchy, 93.5 RED FM and Radio City private FM channels for 2 days continuously. Reports from Central Monitoring Services has since been received stating that there was no news programme by either of these stations, for the periods monitored by them on 19.07.03 and 20.07.03. Monitoring is being done by the Ministry to ensure that the terms and conditions of licence agreement are adhered to.